

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-865001 /P17313
Intel Corporation

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 33-38 are pending. Claim 1 is the sole remaining independent claim. Claims 18-32 have been canceled pursuant to their withdrawal from consideration and subject to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of claims 18-32 in a divisional application.

In the action mailed May 8, 2006, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,300,019 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter "Ikeda").

Claim 1 relates to a method that includes clamping a flexible pellicle between a first frame member and a second frame member, mounting the pellicle frame to a reticle by attaching at least one of the first frame member and the second frame member to the reticle, and lithographically exposing a substrate to a pattern on the reticle with the pellicle frame mounted to the reticle. The first frame member and the second frame member join to form a pellicle frame.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ikeda neither describes nor suggests clamping a flexible pellicle between a first frame member and a second frame member, as recited in claim 1. In this regard, Ikeda's pellicle mounting systems 60 are used to press a pellicle to a mask 10 during mounting. See Ikeda, col. 1, line 35-51. Applicant understands that the pellicle mounting systems 60 are removed after a pellicle is mounted so that

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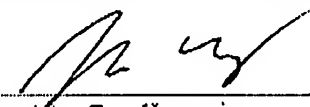
imaging can proceed. For example, every pellicle mounting system 60 is shown as being solid and as spanning an entire pellicle 30. See, e.g., Ikeda, FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 5A, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 9A, 9B. See also Ikeda, FIG. 5B (showing the removal of pellicle mounting system 60 so that particle inspection can proceed). It is unlikely that light can reach the relevant portions of a mask 10 with a solid pellicle mounting system 60 covering the entire span of pellicle 30.

Since Ikeda neither describes nor suggests clamping a flexible pellicle between a first frame member and a second frame member, claim 1 is not anticipated by Ikeda. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections of claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom be withdrawn.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply the one-month extension of time fee of \$120, and any other charges or credits, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Scott C. Harris
Reg. No. 32,030
Attorney for Intel Corporation

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer No. 20985
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
(858) 678-5070 telephone
(858) 678-5099 facsimile
10652558.doc

BY
JOHN F. CONROY
REG. NO. 45,485